

JUN 05 2001

CALVIN MEYERS: Hi. My name is Calvin Meyers, M-e-y-e-r-s. I'm from the White Band Paiutes. I'm a tribal council member, and I'm coordinator for our environmental department.

1 I have a problem with what goes on here tonight because tonight when I came in and signed up I finally got the report. Department of Energy, along with the rest of the United States government, has a trust responsibility to all the tribes in the U.S. I feel that we are not being treated in the manner that we should be. There's a government-to-government policy that's not followed. There's the NEPA process that's not followed because we're not consulted, in my mind. We are insulted.

2 Along with Corbin I feel that the foods have not been looked at. Not only the food but the spirituality, the essence of me, where I came from, my religion, my being who I am. I'm a Southern Paiute. Things are not looked at because you're not scientifically proven. I don't need scientists to prove that the land is alive. I've seen it work. I've seen it do things. I've seen it do things that you would not think would be possible. It is, and I'm young, I'm not very old, and I speak from experience.

3 When I came up here tonight and I asked if I could have extra time, because just introducing myself I could take five minutes, I was told no, and that's why I objected to having somebody else go in front of somebody else, because that's not right. If I, from a tribe, cannot be given anything extra special, then nobody else should be neither, because you guys are not above me. Yet in the eyes of the Department of Energy I should be above the rest of you because of that trust responsibility, that government-to-government which does not exist.

4 It would take me 15 years to comment on this document. The reason why is that we do not have anybody with a doctorate's degree. We do not have scientists on my reservation. We do not receive one penny from the Department of Energy to do any studies. So government-to-government trust responsibility is not there. It's nonexistent. We are told that it's there by saying -- we're always told, Hey, we write you a letter. Writing the letter is the first step. That's not the whole thing. That's not the whole process.

5 So when I say that we're being mistreated, it's an understatement. And I know that every one of you people here comes from somewhere else. I don't. I come from here. My people have been here before you came here. My people are still suffering today because of what you have done to us, which you still do today. The suffering I'm talking about is cancer, cancer from the Nevada Test Site which supposedly had not gotten off but has gotten into our systems, because when you were doing the above-ground testing we lived outside.

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I grew up with no running water and no electricity in my house until I was a teenager. My father died from cancer. We have people with lupus. We have people that I know, at least two people within the last ten years who have died because their hearts exploded.

We have all these things and everything that is going on with us is attributed to the Test Site. So that's why I'm saying it would take us years and years just to be able to make an educated comment to the whole ball of wax.

And so I'd like to let you know that when you go home tonight, just remember, we have been here for centuries. And we look after everything because we know that the earth, the sky and the waters and everything above the earth and under it all lives.

Thank you.